ADVA Optical Networking

A CollabNet Success Story

ADVA Optical Networking unifies development teams with CollabNet ALM.

Challenge
ADVA Optical Networking (ADVA Optical) leads the market for Optical + Ethernet transport solutions that advance next-generation networks for data, storage, voice, and video services. With more than 1,000 employees globally, the company serves enterprise customers as well as core and regional telecommunications carriers. ADVA Optical’s solutions enable carriers and enterprises to offer competitive services and applications with a low total cost of ownership, independent of the existing network infrastructure.

With a globally dispersed team of about 200 software development engineers, ADVA Optical needed to find ways to enable fast and cost-effective collaboration throughout the development process. The company’s solutions cover a wide range of networking technologies—from dense wave division multiplexing (DWDM) to Ethernet access—and consequently, ADVA Optical has a diverse team of engineers working around the world. The company had also grown quickly through multiple acquisitions, and found itself incorporating different tools and methods for software development that were inherited through those acquisitions.

“The methods for configuration management, as well as the build tools we encountered have been all over the map, from using nothing to using complex tools like Perforce,” said Mike Mezeul, Senior Director, Software Development and Global SCM at ADVA Optical Networking. “Defect tracking ranged from Excel spreadsheets to Bugzilla. We needed to have commonality across the company to improve communication and collaboration during software development, and also to reduce maintenance and training costs.”

Because of the diversity of tools, tracking data storage was a challenge. “The companies ADVA Optical acquired each had their own procedures and methods for code storage, with varying levels of sophistication” he said. “We needed to provide global access over a common platform, so we could better track where data was stored across the organization.”

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– Mike Mezeul, Senior Director, Software Development and Global SCM, ADVA Optical Networking

Solution
After 6 months of testing, ADVA Optical migrated its major products to the CollabNet application life-cycle management (ALM) platform, the industry’s only completely integrated and open platform for distributed teams.

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Finally, ADVA Optical’s R&D team required a unified solution that provided rich feature sets around version control, defect tracking, and correlation. “A link between the tracking tool and the source code for the defect was a critical requirement,” said Mezeul.

**Solution**

Mezeul’s colleague first learned about the CollabNet solution while reading a German computer journal. Coincidentally, he received a call from CollabNet shortly thereafter, when the article was top of mind. A meeting was arranged, and the rest is history!

CollabNet founded the Subversion open source project, and continues to serve as the greatest source of knowledge and technical expertise on Subversion for large development organizations that want to standardize their version control practices around it. This expertise proved valuable to ADVA Optical as the team was still uncertain about deploying an open source solution within an enterprise.

When ADVA Optical’s R&D team began evaluating solutions for defect tracking and version control, CollabNet’s ALM platform was at the top of the list. “We looked at our existing tools, including Perforce, CmPlus and CVS, as well as new tools, and determined that CollabNet had the best capabilities for defect tracking and version control in a single, scalable, unified solution,” said Mezeul.

ADVA Optical’s R&D team conducted a 6-month pilot of the CollabNet platform, concentrating on just one test project. They were looking to verify branching and merging capabilities, in addition to evaluating integration features. ADVA Optical currently manages about 20 major software development projects, most of which are embedded processor applications for supporting telecommunications and data communications products.

Mezeul’s team needed the integrated, Web-based suite of defect tracking, project management, and collaboration tools that the CollabNet ALM platform provides. They used the tools throughout the application development cycle, from design and code, through build and test, to release.

The CollabNet solution’s ability to integrate with third-party vendors and homegrown tools was a major selling point for Mezeul’s team. “We had some in-house tools that were central to our daily workflow and processes, and the solution we deployed had to integrate seamlessly with those tools. Working closely together, CollabNet and ADVA Optical supported those integrations. Additionally, our teams can access CollabNet’s ALM platform from anywhere in the world. Of the solutions we evaluated, CollabNet was the best fit for our combined organization.”

Mezeul and his team conducted due diligence by reviewing cost considerations, capital investment scenarios, and a list of pros and cons with respect to their needs, goals, and culture. After deciding to move forward with the rollout, the company signed a multi-year agreement and soon migrated its projects over to CollabNet.

ADVA Optical also deployed CollabNet’s Lab Management solution to allow them to manage virtual server profiles for PC and Linux machines. This solution is used by a small group at ADVA Optical for virtualization of machines, builds, and automated testing on various platform types. Accessible via a high-speed link, this virtualized environment has enhanced productivity for the Development and Test teams.

**Results**

CollabNet’s proven expertise gave the ADVA Optical team a high degree of confidence in Subversion as an open source solution and helped them realize significant value from their deployment. Also of note, CollabNet’s ALM platform has enabled ADVA Optical to integrate version control and defect tracking across software development teams within the organization—allowing them to meet their primary objective. The team also improved processes and metrics, allowing them to work towards meeting higher levels of CMMI and TL9000 compliance. “CollabNet’s ALM solution has helped to unify the company’s development teams,” said Mezeul. “Our developers collaborate more closely, and engineers can work on source code simultaneously, no matter where they are located. This increases their productivity dramatically. Source code is located in one central repository that any developer in the company can access regardless of what platform they’re on. This helps them work faster and smarter, collaborate more efficiently, and revise builds faster. Ultimately, that means faster time to market with better products.”
The Agile Path to Enterprise Cloud Development

Over the last decade, CollabNet successfully pioneered collaborative and distributed agile software development in the cloud for many of the world’s largest organizations. Today, we’ve created the industry’s first front end platform to facilitate the enterprise shift to hybrid cloud development and deployment.

Learn more at www.collab.net/solutions

Improve Agility and Governance Across the Enterprise

CollabNet offers practical strategies, training, and the industry’s only open and extensible platform for collaborative agile software delivery at scale. As the creator of Subversion and a widely-recognized leader in the ALM space with TeamForge, CollabNet has helped hundreds of the world’s largest development organizations to:

- Reduce software delivery times by up to 75%
- Cut development costs by 30%
- Achieve greater collaboration, traceability and governance with a centralized system that connects teams, processes, IP and tools

Take the Next Step

We invite you to see how CollabNet can help you overcome numerous challenges and partner with you to develop your own agile transformation strategy.

- Learn about TeamForge
- Learn about Collaborative software development and Agile Transformation services and solutions
- Learn about project-level Agile training and coaching services
- Contact us today for a free, no-obligation consultation

For more information, please visit www.collab.net